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Kernan Awards Anderson Designation as State's Second Certified Technology Park

ANDERSON—Linking Indiana's world-class higher education system and its growing technology fields is getting easier with today's designation of Anderson as the state's second Certified Technology Park.

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan joined Anderson Mayor J. Mark Lawler and Dr. Michael Collette, vice president for Enrollment Management and Information Systems at Anderson University, this afternoon to announce that Anderson's new Flagship Enterprise Center has been awarded the status.

"This is an important day in Anderson's history as well as for the state of Indiana. We're showing the world that we are committed to developing and supporting technology companies in our state," said Kernan, who oversees the state's economic development efforts as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "We are confident that the Anderson Business Development Center, in partnership with the city of Anderson, will take this designation to the next level."

A result of 2002's tax restructuring legislation, the new Certified Technology Park program encourages the location of high-technology businesses within areas identified by local redevelopment commissions. Portions of tax revenues generated by tenants are reinvested into the park and used for improvements, operation and maintenance of facilities, payment of interest and principal on bonds and other business-generating activities.

"This is yet another tool to provide us a greater opportunity for economic development," Anderson Mayor J. Mark Lawler said. "Couple this with the new business development center and our relationship with Anderson University, along with Purdue University, and Anderson has a unique edge."

Developed through a relationship between Anderson University and the city of Anderson, the Center will have a strong connection to higher education. The Anderson University Falls School of Business and Ivy Tech State University will offer degree programs at an adjoining facility and are directly involved in the programming of the Center. Both Anderson University and Purdue University will provide internship opportunities from a variety of programs.

"We are extremely pleased that the state of Indiana has recognized Anderson, Indiana and the Flagship Enterprise Center as a place of economic potential," said Dr. James L. Edwards, president of Anderson University. "This distinction will strengthen the already vibrant activities associated with entrepreneurial and educational partnerships that have been formed and will continue to be formed in the future."

The Flagship Enterprise Center will be located on Interstate 69 in the far southwest quadrant of Anderson and will be strategically placed near several nationally recognized high-tech electrical component and engineering firms. The Center will sit adjacent to Delco Remy International Inc. and Continental Design Inc. and is located within five miles of Guide Corp. Inc., Delphi Inc. and iPower, all recognized national, technological leaders within their industry.

"This designation promises to make a significant impact for the city of Anderson, the ongoing goals of the Flagship Enterprise Center and this region of the state," said Charles Staley, president of the Flagship Enterprise Center Board of Directors and executive director of Facilities and Real Estate Management at Anderson University. "This distinction would not have been possible without the combined efforts of Anderson University, Purdue University and the city of Anderson."

Any city, town or county with a redevelopment commission is eligible to have an area designated as a Certified Technology Park if certain requirements are met, including: demonstrating the significant support of a research university; a commitment to the commercialization of products; access and utilization of public and private resources in the park; the existence of, or proposed development of, a business incubator; the development of a business plan or the assurance that the park will be used for high technology business activity. In addition, a firm commitment must be shown from at least one business primarily engaged in a high-technology activity creating a significant number of jobs that will locate within the park.

iPower Technologies Inc. has demonstrated a firm commitment to the park. iPower was formed by a joint venture between AeroVironment Inc. and Delco Remy International to pursue emerging opportunities in on-site generation of electrical power for home and industry. The company provides advanced technologies and systems integration capabilities for this market. iPower also leverages the engineering, manufacturing and sales and marketing resources of its strategic partners such as Delco Remy International, AeroVironment and DTE Energy.

"This Certified Technology Park designation is the beginning of Anderson being defined as a cutting edge community," said Linda Dawson, Redevelopment Commission Executive Director. "iPower is the first of many businesses to come that will create a high-technology environment with spin-off activities leading our community in a new direction."

For more information on Indiana Certified Technology Parks and other community development efforts, please call the Indiana Department of Commerce's Development Finance Office at 317.232.8898 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com. For additional information about the Flagship Enterprise Center in Anderson please call 765.778.0266 or visit the Web site at www.flagshipenterprise.org.